

Aboriginal Aquaculture Association
1182 Homathco Drive
Campbell River, B.C.
Phone: (250) 286-9939
Fax: (250) 286-9931

April 4, 2005

Aquaculture is an industry of opportunity. As North American and global consumers continue to demand more and more seafood, farm-raised seafood will become an increasingly important source of supply. First Nations communities throughout British Columbia are particularly well-positioned to take advantage of the opportunities that aquaculture offers. Aquaculture, however, is also an industry with challenges and controversy and, therefore, successful development of a sustainable and profitable aquaculture sector requires thoughtful planning.

Among BC's Aboriginal communities there has been considerable talk about aquaculture development but, unfortunately, little real progress has resulted. Therefore, the Aboriginal Aquaculture Association was formed to serve as a coordinating mechanism to help First Nations learn more about sustainable aquaculture opportunities and to become active participants in the sector. In this context, the Association invites you to attend a very important planning workshop in Campbell River on April 21st and 22nd. The objective of the workshop is to solicit your input into how the Association can best serve First Nations' needs to support sustainable aquaculture development in British Columbia. Together, we will identify the areas of opportunity and challenges specific to Aboriginal aquaculture development and lay the foundation for an Aboriginal aquaculture strategy specific to the needs and interests of First Nations

Your participation and ideas are important to our planning process and we look forward to your involvement in this strategic workshop. It will provide you with an opportunity to communicate your vision for Aboriginal aquaculture development and to provide input into the respective roles of the federal and provincial governments, industry and other stakeholders. Working together we will create those conditions that will allow our communities to prosper from sustainable aquaculture development that is respectful of First Nation culture and values. The workshop agenda is attached for your review.

The meetings will be held on Thursday, April 21st and Friday, April 22nd at the Best Western Austrian Chalet, 428 South Island Highway, Campbell River. A special room rate of \$65 plus tax has been arranged for delegates to the meeting (indicate that you are attending the Association workshop when making reservations). While the Association is able to cover reasonable travel expenses for one of the delegates from your community, we would encourage as many First Nation participants as possible to attend.

We ask that you identify the delegates from your community. Please RSVP (250) 286-9939 or richard@aboriginalaquaculture.com. We look forward to your participation in this important aquaculture planning session for BC's Aboriginal communities.